

I support media diversity

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC's decision to roll back some of the current media ownership rules severely misguided. These rules have served the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented will become more limited. Large corporations, driven primarily by profit, currently own a significant number of media outlets, and could now potentially own more. The consequences on the free exchange of ideas would be disastrous.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. The FCC, by allowing our media outlets to merge, will compromise our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints.

In addition to the official hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA, I strongly urge the FCC to hold additional hearings elsewhere around the nation to solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

I urge the FCC to please reconsider their decision to deregulate. The public interest will best be served by preserving the media ownership rules.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Timothy Inners